

## Near Real Time NexRad Graphics Provided by DUATS - FREE!

Continental U.S. NexRad graphics provided by DUATS are offered as soon as they are generated by the National Weather Service. This means that you will get a new graphic every 6 to 7 minutes, which is the most current

NexRad available from any source. All regional graphics on Web DUATS have looping covering the last 70 minutes. The loop button is located on the bottom right corner of the graphic. Additionally, if there is an adjacent graphic, a blue

border will be presented. By clicking on this border you can view the graphic without having to go back to the menu. Clicking anywhere on the graphic displayed will show the graphic in 2X zoom.

## Weather Legends on NexRad DUATS

The National Weather Service radars are Doppler radars which means they can measure the wind speed and direction within a thunderstorm. When the internal storm motion information is received by the radar it is analyzed to detect any violent weather the thunderstorm may be producing. Here are the following weather types that each radar constantly checks for:

**Mesocyclone (MESO):** If there is a mesocyclone inside the thunderstorm,

then there is a three dimensional rotating structure within the thunderstorm. If this structure is present in a thunderstorm, there is a good chance it could produce a number of severe weather types including tornadoes and hail.

**Tornadic vortex signature (TVS):** When a mesocyclone displays this particular wind signature inside the mesocyclone, the thunderstorm has a high potential of producing a tornado.

**Hail (HAIL):** If a thunderstorm is producing hail it shows up very distinctly on the radar because the hailstones are generally much larger than the raindrops. When that unique strong return is shown inside a thunderstorm, it is a potential hail producer.

**Hook Echo (HOOK):** This is another very specific radar signature of tornadoes. If this structure is found in a thunderstorm, it is very likely that it is producing a tornado.

## Aircraft Identification when Filing a Flight Plan

When filing a flight plan, the DUATS system will accept up to seven alphanumeric characters. This includes air carrier, aircraft letter digit registration, or aircraft company designation followed by the trip or flight number. Any aircraft used for rental purposes shall use the identification number of the aircraft, *not* the word "RENTAL."

The aircraft identification is used for all notification and search purposes and "RENTAL" does not delineate a specific aircraft.

Flight plans filed through DUATS will be sent to the appropriate FAA facility. If you file a flight plan by mistake, you should remove it from the DUATS system. VFR Flight plans are transmitted to Flight Service one hour prior to departure. IFR flight plans are normally transmitted to center two hours prior to departure, however, any center can request delivery up to six hours prior to departure. All flight plans filed within these times will immediately be transmitted from DUATS.

Modifications and cancellations of flight plans can be made through DUATS up until the DUATS system transmits the flight plan to the FAA. After that all requests must be made through an FAA facility.

## Closing VFR/DVFR Flight Plans

Pilots are responsible for ensuring that their VFR or DVFR flight plan is closed. You can close your flight plan through DUATS or the nearest FSS, or if neither of these services are available, you may request any ATC facility to relay your closure to the FSS. Control towers do not automatically close VFR or DVFR flight plans since they do not know if a particular VFR aircraft is on a flight plan. If you fail to report or close your flight plan within ½ hour after your ETA, search and rescue procedures are started.

*Please retain your DUATS Newsletters for future reference.*

### **DUATS...Still the Fastest Way into the Air & Still Free**

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## FDC NOTAMS Again

FDC NOTAMS are more important now than ever in aviation. Since 9/11 there has been a dramatic increase in the number of FDC NOTAMS (regulatory NOTAMS) issued by the FAA. An FDC NOTAM is always associated with an affected FAA location. Normally the affected locations are the three letter identifiers for an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), an Airport, or a Navigational aid. It is important that the pilot access these regulatory NOTAMS in order to plan a safe flight. FDC NOTAM data can be of local/national interest and may also include Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) for a route of flight.

FDC NOTAMS of national interest will be issued using location identifier FDC. (i.e. **!FDC 1/3359 FDC PART 1 OF 7 SPECIAL NOTICE. VFR OPERATIONS IN THE U.S.**)

TFRs will be issued as an FDC with the issuing ARTCC for the location identifier. (i.e. **!FDC 2/1403 ZNY NY.. FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS NEW YORK, NY.**)

The ARTCC identifiers used to obtain TFRs are:

ZAB	Albuquerque
ZAN	Anchorage
ZAU	Chicago
ZBW	Boston
ZDC	Washington
ZDV	Denver
ZFW	Ft Worth
ZHN	Honolulu
ZHU	Houston
ZID	Indianapolis
ZJX	Jacksonville
ZKC	Kansas City
ZLC	Salt Lake City
ZMA	Miami
ZME	Memphis
ZLA	Los Angeles
ZMP	Minneapolis
ZNY	New York
ZOA	Oakland
ZOB	Cleveland
ZSE	Seattle
ZTL	Atlanta

FDC NOTAMS are also issued using location identifier for the affected facility. (i.e. **!FDC 2/4316 TVY FI/T BOLINDER FIELD-TOOELE VALLEY TOOELE, UT. NDB RWY 16 ORIG ...**)

A Standard or Abbreviated Route and Area Briefing will provide the FDC NOTAMS for affected facilities along the route of flight and all FDCs issued by

ARTCCs whose boundaries the flight touches. FDC FDC and FDC ZZZ NOTAMS are not provided with the Standard Briefing. If you want these, you must also select the General FDC NOTAMS.

An Outlook Route and Area Briefing is the same as Standard and Abbreviated except there is no option to get the General FDC NOTAMS.

An Abbreviated Location Briefing will provide the FDC NOTAMS for facilities requested. Facility IDs that can be entered are airports, NAVAIDS, ARTCC ID (list above), FDC, and ZZZ (state department FDCs). **You will find this feature the best for obtaining just the FDC you are looking for.** All IDs entered will provide all FDC NOTAMS for the affected facility.

When using the Abbreviated Briefings you must include weather type FDC and the location identifier of the affected facilities (SLC ZDV FDC). Remember, "Abbreviated Briefings" only display the data for the locations you have entered.

When requesting the FDC NOTAMS from any of the Abbreviated Briefing options you will receive the following list. It is a summary of the NOTAMS issued in the last 12/24 hours. Twice daily the US NOTAM Office transmits this list of the FDC NOTAM numbers issued during the previous 12 and 24 hours. The lists are transmitted at 0530 (summary of preceding 12 hours) and 1730 (summary of preceding 24 hours) each day. The lists are used by the FSS and DUATS for database updates.

```
!FDC 2/5769 FDC LIST 0206190515
FDC 2/5745 FDC LIST 0206181715      FDC 2/5746 CNL 2/5716 FDC
FDC 2/5747 ZKC                       FDC 2/5748 ZDV
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                CANCELLATIONS 0206190515
NUMBER LOC 91.141 CNLD BY  NUMBER LOC 91.141 CNLD BY
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1/0329 FDC      2/5766      1/0823 21D      2/5753
2/5343 ZHN      2/5756      2/5700 ZAN      2/5767
2/5705 ZDV      2/5755      2/5716 FDC      2/5746
```

## SID and STAR Reminder

Because of the complex structure of some SIDs and STARs, the FAA does not have the procedure in electronic format. When entering a SID/STAR into a route of flight and DynCorp DUATS does not accept it, request the SID/STAR by entering it in the remarks section of the flight plan. When using the flight planner and a particular SID/STAR is not offered, you can either go directly to the transition fix or enter all of the waypoints of the procedure. Either way will allow the flight planner to process a flight log.

## Closing VFR/DVFR Flight Plans (continued)

Flight plan closure is available through Web DUATS or interactively. Only use this service when you have actually **completed** a VFR or DVFR flight. This feature is **not** to be used to cancel a filed flight plan.

"Close a VFR flight plan" is located under FAA Flight Plans on Web DUATS. Click on the "Close" button and fill in the requested information. All boxes except "Remarks" are mandatory. After selecting the submit button wait for the response "Closure message filed with DynCorp IS DUATS and is being forwarded to (ID) and (Name of Flight Service) at (Date Time)" to insure the message has been accepted by DUATS.

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